

Fast ForWord users show gains on the California Standards Tests

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Study Objectives

The California Standards Tests (CSTs) are high stakes assessments administered annually, statewide. This observational study used results from the 2007-2010 CSTs to examine the development of English-language arts and/or mathematics skills in 151 elementary school students who used the Fast ForWord products.

Methodology

Educators at the participating school were trained in:

- Current neuroscience findings on the development of language and reading skills
- Methods for assessing candidates for use of Fast ForWord products
- Effective implementation techniques
- Use of Progress Tracker reports to monitor student performance
- Techniques for measuring gains students achieve after using the product
- Appropriate measures for testing and evaluation

Before and after using the Fast ForWord products, study participants completed:

- The California Standards Test in English-language arts (CST-ELA), and/or
- The California Standards Test in Mathematics (CST-Math)

Schedule of Use

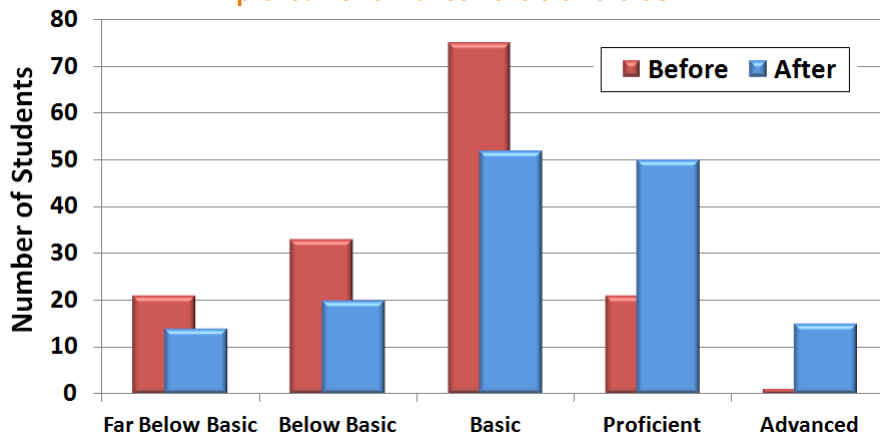
The school assigned students to the 30- or 40-Minute Fast ForWord protocols, which call for using a product 30 or 40 minutes a day, five days per week, for nine to sixteen weeks. The study participants used one or more products during one to two school years, accruing 169 days of use over a period of 13 calendar months, on average.

Assessment Results

The California Standards Tests report scale scores and performance levels, but only the performance levels can be compared across grades. Students making typical progress are expected to remain at the same performance level from year to year.

After Fast ForWord use, students in this study made statistically significant improvements on both CST tests (non-parametric analyses, $p < .001$). Gains of one or more performance levels were seen for 82 of the 151 students with CST-ELA data (see graph below), and for 67 of the 150 students with CST-Math data.

Improved Performance Levels on the CST-ELA



Educational Gains

The results found in this study support other studies demonstrating that using the Fast ForWord products results in the strengthening of foundational language and cognitive skills, better positioning students to partake in the classroom curriculum.

Students who used Fast ForWord products showed dramatic improvements on the CSTs, with statistically significant numbers of students moving to higher performance levels in both English language arts and mathematics.



Program Study Statistics

School Years:

2007-2010

Number of Schools:

1

Number of Students:

151

Grade Level:

3rd-5th grade

Products Used:

Fast ForWord Language
Fast ForWord Language v2
Fast ForWord Language to Reading
Fast ForWord Language to Reading v2
Fast ForWord Reading Level 1
Fast ForWord Reading Level 2
Fast ForWord Reading Level 3

Assessment Tool Used:

California Standards Test in English-language arts (CST-ELA)
California Standards Test in Mathematics (CST-Math)

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